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Responses to Questions for the Record from Representative George Holding (NC-2)

Question 1: In your opinion how would you suggest CMS incentivize providers to invest in DXA in order to deliver the gold standard of care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Answer 1: As you are aware the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) is the largest nonprofit membership organization representing hospice and palliative care programs and professionals in the United States. NHPCO represents over 4,300 hospice locations and 58,000 individual professionals caring for more than 1,000,000 patients and their families across the country. NHPCO is committed to expanding access to hospice and palliative care for patients and families facing serious illness by encouraging an environment of paying for value over volume and working to ensure providers deliver person-centered, interdisciplinary care that builds on the field's four decades of service.

If evidence suggests that patients undergoing palliative care treatments would benefit from the DXA test, NHPCO would be open to learning more about it.

Question 2: In your opinion, how can CMS ensure that providers are successfully identifying and treating osteoporosis?

Answer 2: Hospice attending physicians are an integral member of the interdisciplinary team and are in the position to identify osteoporosis in their patients.

Question 3: Would increased testing and diagnosis of osteoporosis, and appropriate treatment, reduce Medicare expenditures related to falls? What would the effect be on quality of life for our nation's seniors with undiagnosed osteoporosis?

Answer 3: NHPCO has no comment.

Question 4: Would improvements in DXA payments reduce the burden on nursing homes help accountable for avoiding major injuries to their residents? How?

Answer 4: NHPCO has no comment.